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For immediate release

Robinson Gives \$1 Million to American Helicopter Museum

Torrance, CA – Frank Robinson, founder and president of Robinson Helicopter Company, has delivered \$1 million to Peter Wright, Jr., Chairman of the American Helicopter Museum – the only “*all-helicopter*” museum in the United States. Robinson is committed to making sure that helicopters aren’t second-class citizens in the nation’s aviation museums; he made another \$1 million contribution less than two years ago to the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum to assure that its new facility at the Dulles Airport will include a section devoted specifically to rotary wing aircraft.

Wright flew to Robinson’s California factory to accept the check – by far the largest contribution ever received by the museum. The funds are earmarked specifically for the purchase of the museum’s leased facilities on five acres of the Brandywine Airport in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Robinson’s contribution will allow the museum to occupy the entire building which has ample capacity for visitor growth and expansion of the museum’s collection and exhibits, including display of one R22 and one R44 helicopter to be loaned by Robinson. Also planned are expanded teaching facilities, with particular emphasis on interactive exhibits, to provide exciting learning experiences for students and to remind all visitors of the positive impact helicopters have on everyday life. The project is scheduled for completion in approximately two years. Opening ceremonies are tentatively set for October 2004 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the first successful rotary wing flight in the United States.

The American Helicopter Museum was founded in 1993 and began operations in 1996 under the leadership of founder Peter Wright, Jr. and a dedicated group of volunteers who have contributed more than 100,000 hours and helped restore many of the historic aircraft in the museum’s collection. The museum is unique in its exclusive focus on the science and technology of rotary wing aviation and was voted “Best Scientific Outing” by *Philadelphia Magazine*. Current facilities include a gift shop, a restoration area, and exhibit space with over 35 helicopters, autogiros, and convertiplanes, eight of which are fully accessible for hands-on experiences.

The museum launched its capital campaign in April 2002 to raise \$4 million. In addition to acquiring the building, the museum will use additional funding to increase exhibit and programmatic space, and to build an endowment to sustain future operations and programs. With the Robinson gift, a total of \$1.3 million has been raised to date. For more information about the museum, go to www.helicoptermuseum.org.

Robinson Helicopter Company is the world’s leading manufacturer of civil helicopters and builds the two-seat Model R22 and the four-seat Model R44. Robinson helicopters are used throughout the world for a variety of private, business, and commercial operations. For more information, visit the website at www.robinsonheli.com.

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